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The situation in the Middle East

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Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 28 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

On 12 November 2001 Israeli military aircraft overflew the South and Damur areas at high and medium altitudes, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1003 and 1224 hours on 13 November 2001 Israeli military aircraft overflew the area of operation of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) at high altitudes. Between 1145 and 1200 they overflew the Sarafand, Sidon, Beirut and Shikka areas at high and medium altitudes, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1021 and 1140 hours on 14 November 2001 two Israeli military aircraft overflew the sea off Shikka, circling over the Shikka area. One military aircraft then returned and from 1935 to 2225 hours overflew the town of Naqurah heading north and circled over the coast between Tyre and Na'imah, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1145 and 1200 hours on 15 November 2001 an Israeli military aircraft overflew Naqurah heading towards Beirut, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1100 and 1120 hours on 16 November 2001 four Israeli military aircraft overflew the sea heading towards Shikka, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1125 and 1158 hours on 18 November 2001 two Israeli military aircraft overflew the sea west of Naqurah at a distance of five miles from the coast heading north and circled between Beirut and Shikka, breaking the sound barrier, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1136 and 1156 hours on the same day Israeli military aircraft overflew the UNIFIL area of operation in the South, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

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Between 1000 and 1105 hours on 19 November 2001 two Israeli military aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl area heading north and circled over the Shikka and Beirut areas, the mountains and the South. Two aircraft also overflew the Shab'a area heading north, breaking the sound barrier, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1756 and 1757 hours on 20 November 2001 an Israeli military aircraft overflew the UNIFIL area of operation, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

The Israeli aerial violations indicated above confirm that Israel is continuing to provoke and commit aggression against Lebanon. They are in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty, and they pose a threat to security and stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmouri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative